

POST AGENDA
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
CITY HALL – FEBRUARY 12, 2020
5:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Billy Copeland

Mayor Copeland called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The City Clerk Ms. Janis Price called roll for the meeting, as follows:

Mayor Billy Copeland	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Craig Elrod	Present
Councilmember Benjamin Pruett	Present
Councilmember Roger Pruitt	Present
Councilmember Rufus Stewart	Present
Councilmember Kamali Varner	Present
Councilmember Sandra Vincent	Present

Others in attendance were: City Clerk, Ms. Janis Price; Fire Chief, Mr. Steve Morgan; and Executive Assistant, Ms. Trisha Colpetzer.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilmember Stewart motioned and Councilmember Pruitt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

4. Pledge to the Flag

Councilmember Stewart led the Pledge to the Flag.

5. Invocation

Councilmember Pruett gave the Invocation.

**6. Discussion, adoption and authorization
to sign service delivery strategy documents**

Mr. Andy Welch, Attorney

Attorney, Mr. Andy Welch reviewed the proposed Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) Agreement with the Cities of Hampton, Locust Grove, McDonough, Stockbridge and Henry County, Georgia. Some of the items he reviewed are listed below:

- Reduction in County taxes for citizens in the City of McDonough related to Fire Services.
- County will provide Special Tax District in lieu of rollback
- Special Service District of the unincorporated area will pay for Planning & Zoning, Police and other services provided
- Tax Districts are enforceable by law and by these contracts.

After the Mr. Welch's initial review of the proposed changes, discussion ensued. Mayor Copeland shared that the other cities have expressed their satisfaction with the agreement by approving it and forwarding their signed copies to the County.

Councilmember Stewart asked about issues related to City parks, and Mr. Welch said that according to the agreement the City will remit impact fees to the County as they continue to operate in the City parks.

Mayor Pro Tem Elrod asked about the effective date of the new agreement. Mr. Welch said that the agreement is set for ten years with a tentative expiration of February 2030, depending on when the agreement is officially enacted. The impact of the changes should be recognized on citizens' next tax bill.

Councilmember Pruitt asked about the services that are provided for senior citizens within the agreement. Mr. Welch said that the County will continue to provide transit services and program centers for senior citizens in the community.

Councilmember Vincent thanked Mr. Welch all of his hard work and his presence at the meeting. She then stated for the record that no councilperson should ever be made to feel that they are in error by asking questions. She said that while Henry County Water Authority is a separate entity, water and sewer rates vary throughout areas of the City with some citizens paying more than others; and that is her reason for asking questions regarding water. Mr. Welch said that there is authority in the Code Section that speaks to differential water rates, which allows those rates to be challenged in a separate process outside of the SDS Agreement.

The discussions continued. Councilmember Vincent posed questions regarding funding for EMS services, park maintenance, the responsibilities of different authorities, funding and responsibility for road projects, Special Tax Districts, and other issues relative to the agreement. Mr. Welch continued with his discussion and explanation of the details of the agreement.

Mr. Welch said that the purpose of the document is to approve the City of McDonough's position regarding SDS; and the County will have to approve the entire agreement. He said that the final document will be filed with the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and will be made available online.

After the discussion was concluded, Mayor Copeland called for a motion to adopt a joint Resolution of the Cities of Hampton, Locust Grove, McDonough, Stockbridge and Henry

County, Georgia, approving a new Service Delivery Strategy as required by the Service Delivery Act, O.C.G.A. § 36-70-20. Councilmember Vincent motioned and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

7. Adjournment

Mayor Copeland called for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Stewart motioned and Councilmember Pruitt seconded. All stood in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

OPEN MEETINGS COMPLIANCE NOTICE: This is a special called meeting of Mayor and Council of the City of McDonough duly noticed pursuant to the requirements of the Georgia Open Meetings Law (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1, et seq). Notice of the meeting schedule was sent to the *Henry Herald* on February 10, 2020; and a copy the agenda was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.